

9-1-2012

Celebrating our legacy -- and our legacies

Tom Triplitt
Furman University

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Recommended Citation

Triplitt, Tom (2012) "Celebrating our legacy -- and our legacies," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 55 : Iss. 3 , Article 24.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol55/iss3/24>

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CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY — AND OUR LEGACIES

FURMAN VALUES ITS ALUMNI. That fact should not be debatable, at least from the perspective of your humble alumni director.

As an example of how much we appreciate our alumni and want their families to carry on the Furman tradition, the university offers \$10,000 legacy scholarships to the children and grandchildren of alumni. That's \$10,000

per year, or a total of \$40,000 over four years, which is almost a 20 percent discount off Furman's current cost of just over \$52,000.

Furman also now offers five renewable legacy scholarships worth \$25,000 each. These are awarded through a competitive application process.

The 2012–13 academic year is the second in which the university has awarded the \$10,000 legacy scholarships and the first for the \$25,000 scholarships. This year's freshman class, the Class of 2016, has 99 legacies among its 697 members.

The Alumni Office wants to help Furman's admission efforts by improving our database of legacy children so that we can include more of them on our mailing lists early in their high school years. This way we can go to them directly to tell them about the virtues and benefits of a Furman education.

My experience with my children was that the more I advocated on Furman's behalf, the less they wanted to consider it, even though two of them wound up enrolling anyway — and were glad they did. If more information comes directly from Furman, parents and grandparents can more easily (and casually) drop the



subject into everyday conversations. Then the students can decide on their own that Furman is the right fit for them.

Whether or not you have a potential Furman student at home, please remember that you — alumni, parents, friends and current students — are Furman's best recruiters. We encourage you to share the good news about Furman with any young person you know who is looking at colleges.

THROUGH THE YEARS the Alumni Office has enjoyed a wonderful partnership with Furman's Lilly Center for Vocational Reflection. This past summer we co-sponsored the fourth biennial "What's Calling You Now" weekend retreat for alumni. Participants were inspired and challenged to reflect on their careers and vocations with the help of guest speakers John Beckford, vice president for academic affairs and dean; Spanish professor Jeremy Cass '00; Min-Ken Liao of the biology faculty; and Susan Zeiger, director of internships.

Our office and the Lilly Center plan to collaborate on another such retreat in 2014. But for 2013, in keeping with its every-other-year tradition, the Lilly Center is sponsoring two summer alumni pilgrimages. The choices are an international excursion to the Iona Community in Scotland July 25–August 3, or a closer-to-home trip to Chimayó, N.M., scheduled for late May and early June (actual dates still pending).

In 2009 and 2011, the center sponsored pilgrimages to Spain and Ireland, respectively.

The Iona Community describes itself as "a dispersed Christian ecumenical community working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship." Chimayó, which is outside of Santa Fe, is the site of a chapel, *El Santuario de Nuestro Señor*

de Esquipulas, to which thousands travel each year for sanctuary and healing.

Kerry Holder Joffrion '87, an Episcopal priest, and Zara Renander, her partner in the Huntsville, Ala., company Turning Point Consultants, will lead the programs. Both have been involved in previous pilgrimages.

Leslie Smith '91, president-elect of the Alumni Board, traveled to Ireland in 2011 and describes the trip as "an amazing, life-shaping experience. 'Thanks be to God' was our group's battle cry as we followed the ancient trails of pilgrims seeking guidance from St. Patrick, St. Brendan and St. Brigid. The camaraderie, scenery, hospitality, history and people we encountered made our instruction that 'Pilgrims do not complain' a gratifying mantra. I can't wait to share Scotland in 2013 with my Furman family."

Becky Hood Becherer '89 participated in the first two pilgrimages. After the Ireland trip, she wrote an article for this magazine in which she said, "A pilgrimage enables your mind and body to seemingly disconnect and find a new and entirely different association . . . In no other type of travel have I experienced the opportunity to focus on, discover and fulfill such a deeply personal spiritual covenant."

Visit <http://furmanlilly.com> for reservation information and trip costs.

— TOM TRIPLITT

The author, a 1976 graduate, is executive director of constituent relations and alumni programs at Furman.